

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on August 6, 2003, and the references cited therewith. No claims are amended, no claims are canceled, and claims 28-30 are added; as a result, claims 1-30 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, and 21-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kubota (U.S. Pat. No. 6,257,897).

The rejection states that, “Kubota discloses (fig. 4) a wiring system comprising a flexible guide (34, 35, 44) adapted for connection between a first device (fig. 8, item 50) and a second device (not shown) wherein the flexible guide limits communication line movement to substantially a two dimensional plane.”

Kubota appears to show a first support plate 34, a second support plate 35 and a terminal fixing plate 44 with hinges 37₁ and 37₂. However Applicant respectfully submits that the design in Kubota is not limited to substantially a two dimensional plane. Kubota teaches three dimensional movement. Column 6, lines 6-10 indicate that the hinges 37₁ and 37₂ should be dimensioned to be **bent, folded, or twisted** relative to each other. Further column 7, lines 4-7 indicate that “the first and second support plates 34 and 35, as well as the second and third support plates 35 and 44 are twistable relative to each other.

In contrast, Applicant’s independent claims 1, 7, 21, and 25 include devices and methods for a flexible guide wherein the flexible guide limits communication line movement to substantially a **two dimensional plane**.

Because Kubota does not show every element of Applicant’s independent claims, a 35 USC § 102(b) rejection is not supported. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to Applicant’s independent claims 1, 7, 21, and 25. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom as depending on allowable base claims.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 8, 12, 14, 18-20, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota (U.S. Pat. No. 6,257,897) in view of Cronin (U.S. 4,493,146). Applicant respectfully submits that the additional references of Cronin fail to cure the deficiencies of Kubota as outlined above. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Cronin shows an “instrument 18” that includes both a display and an associated avionic module integrally formed in a single unit. Cronin does not show a display that is separate from an avionic module.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of Applicant’s independent claims, a 35 USC § 103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to claims 8, 12, 14, 18-20, and 23.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 15-17. Applicant has not amended claims 15-17 to place them in independent form at this time. Pursuant to arguments presented above, Applicant submits the claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-373-6944) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743


Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 4 day of November, 2003.

Candis B. Buending

Name

Signature

